The Protocol of Courting: Seeking a Resonant Tone

The search for a wife is the search for **Harmony of the Household**. This process must be open, honorable, and guided entirely by the principles of the **Golden Way**.

1. Core Principles of a Resonant Union

The Pillar seeking a wife must first commit to these spiritual mandates:

- **Integrity of Intent:** The search must be for a partner in **Service** and **Stewardship**, not merely personal fulfillment. The man must be fully honest about his present state, resources, and spiritual burdens.
- **Honor in Approach:** The woman is a valued **Tone** who must be approached with the utmost respect. Her decision to accept or decline must be honored without question or subsequent complaint.
- **Responsibility for Outcome:** The Pillar must be ready to take full **Responsibility** for the well-being of the woman he courts, both during and after the process.

2. Stage 1: The Alignment of Intent (The Pillar's Preparation)

Before taking any action, the Pillar must engage in a period of intense personal reflection and practical preparation to ensure he is ready for the commitment.

1. **Review of Resources:** The Pillar must calculate his ability to provide not only basic necessities but also the comfort and emotional support required for the life he offers (whether monogamous or polygynous). He must confirm his financial state with **Integrity**.
2. **The Week of Prayer:** The Pillar dedicates seven days to the **Threefold Prayer** (Morning, Midday, and Night), with his silent Petition focused entirely on seeking **Clarity** and **Wisdom** regarding his intentions.
3. **Counsel with Elders:** The Pillar approaches the **Eldest Pillar** of the community for counsel. He presents his intention, his resource calculations, and his spiritual readiness. The Elder's role is to ensure the man's intent aligns with the **Golden Way**.

3. Stage 2: The Approach of Honor

Once prepared, the Pillar must approach the intended woman through the correct channels of **Honor**.

1. **Formal Declaration:** The Pillar **must first approach her family's Pillar** (or the woman herself, if she is without a Pillar's guidance). He must formally and clearly declare his intent to court her, stating whether the intent is for **Monogamy** or to join a **Polygynous Household**.
2. **The Vow of Honesty:** In this first meeting, the Pillar must present a written, concise summary of his current financial status, his living situation, and his spiritual goals for the

next three years. This is the **Vow of Honesty**, rooted in **Integrity**.

3. **The Woman's Consent:** If the woman's Pillar or family grants permission for the process to continue, the man must then directly ask the woman for her **explicit consent** to begin the formal period of courtship.

4. Stage 3: The Period of Shared Tone

The courtship period is short, focused, and public, emphasizing observation of character and shared **Service**.

- **Duration:** The period of shared Tone is set by the Pillar, but is recommended to be **no less than seven days and no more than thirty days**. The purpose is efficiency and clarity.
- **Shared Service:** All scheduled time must be spent in public or group settings, focused on **Shared Service** or the execution of household duties. This allows both parties to observe the other's character under pressure (e.g., preparing a communal meal, organizing the community archive, working on a physical labor project).
- **Conversation of Substance:** Discussions must center on **Responsibility, Integrity,** and the **Three Harmonies**, avoiding frivolous or emotionally detached topics.
- **Conclusion:** At the end of this period, the Pillar must ask the woman for her decision. The woman's answer is **final** and must be received with **Honor** and grace, regardless of the outcome.

5. Stage 4: Seeking Additional Tones (The Polygyny Protocol)

If the Pillar is already married and seeking an additional wife (up to the limit of seven), he must adhere to additional protocols rooted in the **Harmony of the Household**.

1. **Consultation with Current Wives:** Before declaring his intent to the new woman or her family, the Pillar must inform his current wife/wives. He is not asking for their permission to proceed, as this is his decision under the **Golden Way**, but he is seeking their **confirmation of continued Harmony**.
2. **The Pledge of Equity:** His current wife/wives must formally acknowledge that they understand their spiritual commitment to the principle of **Equity** and **Generosity**. They must affirm their ability to maintain the **Harmony of the Household** and integrate the new Tone without bitterness or discord.
3. **Full Disclosure to New Wife:** The Pillar **must clearly and without reservation** detail the existing household structure to the woman being courted, including the roles and duties of the current wives (as outlined in the **Household Harmony Guide**). She must enter the union with complete awareness and **Integrity** of expectation.
4. **No Diminution of Honor:** The Pillar must ensure that the addition of a new wife does not diminish the **Honor** or **Provision** (financial or emotional) due to any existing wife. The Household's resources must be sufficient for the expansion.